

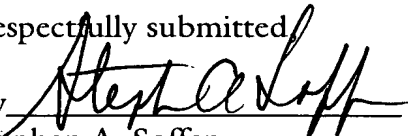
**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

A prompt examination is earnestly solicited.

Dated: July 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Stephen A. Soffen

Registration No.: 31,063  
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP  
2101 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1526  
(202) 785-9700  
Attorney for Applicant